

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development
Approved Minutes
December 7-8, 2017
Audio originating in Juneau, Alaska

Thursday, December 7, 2017

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. After the pledge of allegiance, the board adopted the agenda for December 7, 2017. Roll Call began at 2:04 p.m. No members were absent. Board members declared that there were no conflicts of interest.

Public Comment

Tim Parker from the National Educational Association (NEA) thanked the State Board and the Commissioner for the opportunity to speak about the Alaska Education Challenge. He said that the three commitments really means a lot to educators. He felt that it was important because it was done with educators' input. He was looking forward to more intense collaboration with educators in Alaska. He wanted to find a way to reach into all 500 schools and ask them to fully define the words in the document. He said that we needed to discuss teachers as leaders in Alaska. Chair Fields thanked Tim Parker for his commitment and his time. There were no other public comments at this time.

Work Session

Agenda Item 1. Alaska's Education Challenge. Commissioner Johnson asked the board to approve the Alaska Education Challenge report. He provided the board with some brief introductory remarks and thanked the staff for their work on it. Commissioner Johnson spoke about the three commitments. He was the most excited about the fact that people are rallying around the three commitments.

Division Operations Manager Deborah Riddle spoke about the three commitments and discussed the report summary, which outlines the unity piece and spoke about how we needed to take leadership from stakeholders and partners in education to move this forward. Member Himschoot asked about the goal of the ESSA plan. Commissioner Johnson spoke about color-coding parts of the ESSA plan to show how it related to the Alaska Education Challenge. He explained how we need to be these in sync and that there were specific steps to have an accountability section to help schools. Commissioner Johnson thanked the associations that wrote letters that they are sharing this vision with the entire state.

Member Thompson said that she liked the report, it was easy to read and made sense. She liked the way that things have been summarized. She also said that she was glad that we are not doing the logic model and that she appreciated the work that went into it. 2nd Vice-Chair Harmon Harmon was also pleased with the outcome. He had a question regarding the extent of public awareness and reaching our limit. Commissioner Johnson thanked Jerry Covey and said we have not reached our limit. He expressed that we need to "hit the road"; referring to city council meetings, Chamber of Commerce meetings, school board meetings, etc. He would like to have

board members and staff at DEED sharing this vision with others. He said that we do this for the service for our students and we want to get practical about what will help our teachers, administrators and students. Chair Fields said that he liked the promising practices. 1st Vice Chair Hull was interested in what the next steps might be and felt like we were still in the phase of building the coherence. She is looking forward to seeing how board members can help. There was some discussion on building coherence and moving into the action phase. 1st Vice Chair Hull was hopeful that there will be more structure so that we don't just have pockets of direction. Member Himschoot asked that we be patient and indicated that teachers haven't been asked to think about this in over two decades. She indicated that we need to support teachers in letting them use their voice.

1st Vice Chair Hull moved and 2nd Vice-Chair Harmon seconded the motion at 3:10 p.m. to come out of the work session and into the executive session.

Agenda Item 2. Executive Session, Student Advisor Selection. There was a motion by Member Thompson and Member Himschoot seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education and Early Development select Tanis Lorrington as its Student Advisor-Elect for the remainder of the school year 2017-2018. On July 1, 2018, Tanis Lorrington's one-year term will begin as the Student Advisor to the board and continue through June 30, 2019. There were comments made that there were some very strong candidates from such diverse backgrounds. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

2nd Vice-Chair Harmon moved and 1st Vice Chair Hull seconded the motion at 4:25 p.m. to come out of Executive Session and recess until 8:30 am on Friday, December 8th.

Friday, December 8, 2017

Chair Fields called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. Roll call began at 8:33 am. Present were board members Harmon, Himschoot, Hull, Michael, Thompson, Van Meter, and Chair Fields. Members Gallahorn and Hamilton were excused.

Adoption of the Agenda. 1st Vice Chair Hull moved to adopt the agenda with one change and that was to add the appointment of the student representative. 2nd Vice-Chair Harmon seconded the motion.

Agenda Item 3. Board Report to the Legislature. The Board was asked to approve the Annual Board Report to the Legislature. Information Officer Erin Hardin with the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) provided an overview of the report and offered a recommendation that the Alaska's Education Challenge commitments be added.

Comments were opened up to the board. Member Thompson said that she would like to see the commitments added and believed that it will fill out the Alaska Challenge work. Member Himschoot agreed with 1st Vice Chair Hull and Member Thompson. Member Himschoot suggested that for the NAEP section, it might be helpful to include an explanation for people to know why 2017 results were not included.

2nd Vice-Chair Harmon suggested that student advisor be reflected under the new officers, members and staff section – and that he thinks we should go to the legislature with this information as well. He said that they annually do a review of the Commissioner, which they did in the Executive Session a couple of months ago. Out of that public comment there was a strong endorsement of the Commissioner and the direction that he was taking the department and he was hoping that we could include similar public sentiment from the board regarding the student selection. 1st Vice Chair Hull would like to second that motion and include that in our report. Information Officer Erin Hardin will add the actions of the December meeting, which will include a note about the new student selection.

Member Hamilton agreed with the other members about the additions and also suggested that the three commitments should be in there. He is concerned that people might get confused as we have five priorities. Member Thompson said that we should have a brief explanation on there as well. 1st Vice Chair Hull suggested that if these are to be guiding principles that if the board needs to take a formal action in January. Chair Fields said that he will have the Commissioner make a note that we need a formal action; possibly after meeting with the Governor for the January Meeting. Commissioner Johnson agreed.

Member Michael asked if this document be made public in January so that he can show students what the board has been doing. Information Officer Erin Hardin indicate that it would be available and in the January packet.

Chair Fields asked if there were any final questions and thanked Erin Hardin for the draft.

Agenda Item 4. Bylaw changes/update. Chair Fields asked if members had received the red-lined, edited version of the bylaws that subcommittee members Hull, Harmon, and Himschoot were working on. He offered to let any of the members who wanted to speak to it. The members did not have the edited version, so Chair Fields asked that Executive Secretary Melissa McCormick email it out to all of the board members and members will have until the January meeting to look over the edits and submit comments to the subcommittee members.

1st Vice Chair Hull wanted to make a few comments about what the members would see when reviewing the draft. She put the text from existing bylaws into the proposal and there is rational below that as to what changes were made and why. 1st Vice Chair Hull also talked about the standing rules based on advice from the review and sample bylaws from other states. If we decide to do standing rules, there is a lot more work to be done there. She indicated that bylaws require 2/3 vote, they need significant time before they are changed, etc. Member Hull said that the board needs to consider a couple of questions – 1) What are the topics that we want to include in the standing rules and then 2) what is the process that we want to go through to generate a draft of standing rules? Commissioner Johnson said that we can work with NASBE now that we are a member of that organization and find out what other state boards have done in regards to standing rules and maybe even look at some examples of district bylaws and see if any of that would apply. He also suggested that we work through committee and then to full board. 2nd Vice-Chair Harmon thanked 1st Vice Chair Hull for keeping the subcommittee organized and serving as a scribe. Member Thompson asked if there were any significant changes or new language and new items. 1st Vice Chair Hull indicated that this was a significant re-write. Some

of them are organizational changes. She doesn't remember any significant policy changes. 2nd Vice-Chair Harmon said they tried to capture how the board and the organization is currently operated. Member Thompson asked if there were any changes in descriptions of duties for Board officers. 1st Vice Chair Hull said there were not. Chair Fields said we can look at it between now and the January board meeting. 1st Vice Chair Hull said there is no urgency and we should talk about it and then discuss in January. Chair Fields talked a bit about bylaws and self-evaluations. Timi Tullis will be at the January board meeting and she can help walk us through that as well. He thanked the subcommittee for their work so far.

Agenda Item 5A. World Languages Expert Limited Teacher Certificate. Sondra Meredith, Administrator for Teacher Certification, reviewed regulations proposed for adoption regarding a world language expert limited teacher certificate.

Sondra Meredith spoke about the regulation allowing for more options for districts that offer world language immersion programs to staff their schools. It would allow for those individuals that have extensive knowledge in a world language to be certified to teach world languages if they hold a bachelor's degree and if they can demonstrate the competency with one of the world language exams that they have already adopted. They would also need to pass a math portion of a basic competency exam. This would substitute for the full basic competency exam that we currently require for certification. The third major piece would be that it would allow for individuals who have yet to complete a teacher preparation program to actually enroll in a program concurrently while they are holding the certificate. They would have two years to complete that program. We have heard about the staffing difficulties around the state and this is to help with that. There is also a mentoring program for these teachers that are in the immersion program. It also restricts the teacher from teaching any other language than the one that they have the expertise in and are endorsed on their certificate.

Member Hamilton commented that he was very excited because there are a lot of rural villages that are working really hard to maintain their own native language and they should be able to benefit from this if they are not already in keeping those languages alive. He is curious as to why the math requirement is added on to the language requirement.

There was some discussion about the math portion. Director Bob Williams explained that some of the feedback from districts and that passing the reading and writing/English portion was a challenge. Member Himschoot said that she understands that because the teacher is teaching the world language, they may not need the language but that they need to have the basic math down. Member Himschoot indicated that she liked that we are trying to keep the integrity of the certificate. 2nd Vice-Chair Harmon asked how the public responded and he appreciated that Member Himschoot asking about how many teachers that this would impact. There was more discussion on the limited teacher certificates and the math portion. Sondra Meredith explained more about the Type M certificate. Member Michael asked if this was limited solely to immersion schools or could a world language teacher use this certification. Sondra Meredith explained that this certificate was for a teacher in an immersion or in a regular high school or middle school setting. Member Michael said that he supports this additional regulation and that he is glad that this allows multiple people qualified for the job to have the opportunity. Member Van Meter also indicated his support. He spoke about military spouses that come in and out of

the state and that this offered more opportunities for them in the school. Chair Fields also supported this as well and thanked those that put the work into it.

Agenda Item 6B. Participation Guidelines. Margaret MacKinnon, federal programs coordinator, reviewed regulations proposed for adoption regarding teacher certification.

Agenda Item 7. Mount Edgecumbe High School Curriculum Review. Mt. Edgecumbe art teacher Katie Mulligan spoke about her art projects and math project. There was also discussion about the music programs and their performances. Mr. Courtwright spoke about music, Japanese, Chinese, and Art. Member Harmon thanked all of the teachers and said that it was very exciting to hear the curriculum review. He asked if they do a survey for target audiences and if we are offering everything that the liberal arts area could. Janelle Vanasse, Superintendent and Director of Mount Edgecumbe said that they would like to add that. Mr. Kimber spoke about the Chinese program. Member Himschoot asked if they could have more clarification on the curriculum. Janelle spoke about foundational research, curriculum, program development, and evaluation. 2nd Vice Chair Harmon thanked the teachers and staff for their great presentation.

Agenda Item 8A. World Languages Expert Limited Teacher Certificate. Member Thompson moved, and 2nd Vice-Chair Harmon seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development open a period of public comment on 4 AAC 12.388 World language expert limited teacher certificate. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 9A. Praxis II Content Area Exams. Member Thompson moved, and Member Gallahorn seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 12.310 Designation and qualifying scores of teacher competency examination and 4 AAC 12.407 Content area examinations. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Agenda Item 9B. Guidelines for inclusion of students with disabilities and English learners. First Vice-Chair Hull moved, and Member Thompson seconded the following motion: After considering all public comment, I move the State Board of Education & Early Development adopt the proposed amendments to 4 AAC 06.710 Statewide student assessment system, 4 AAC 06.717, College and career readiness assessments, 4 AAC 06.718 College and career readiness assessment after student receives a certificate of achievement, 4 AAC 06.721 College and career readiness assessment waivers, 4 AAC 06.722 Waiver for entering the public school system late, 4 AAC 06.723 Rare or unusual circumstances, 4 AAC 06.724 Procedures for appeal from a denial of a waiver from the college and career readiness assessments, 4 AAC 06.765 Test security; consequences of breach, 4 AAC 06.775 Statewide assessment program for students with disabilities, 4 AAC 06.776 Assessment of a Student with limited English proficiency, and 4 AAC 06.790 Definitions. The motion passed 8-1 with 2nd Vice Chair Harmon voting no.

Agenda Item 10. Standing Reports.

Agenda Item 10A. Student Learning. Written Federal Programs report. Student Learning Director Paul Prussing spoke about the report. 2nd Vice-Chair Harmon said that he appreciates

the report. Member Himschoot asked about the Education Center. Director of Student Learning Paul Prussing, spoke about the CTE and health field. They spoke about the state program that supports mental health first aid training around Alaska.

Agenda 10B. Educator and School Excellence. Written Educator and School Excellence Report. 2nd Vice-Chair Harmon asked Bob Williams, Director of School Excellence about the leadership. Todd Brocius oversees the E-Learning program in suicide prevention, child abuse and prevention and the core requirement has increased. He spoke about how districts are reaching out to the Department of Education and E-Learning was a good way to comply with those mandates. Member Thompson echoes the Commissioners remarks. She talked about how Todd's crew didn't have any funding, yet they took it on and made it grow into one of the most helpful things that the department has done. Paul Prussing, Director of Student Learning said that they have received national recognition for the program. This is a great job statewide and nationwide for this program.

Agenda Item 10C. Federal Programs.

Agenda Item 10D. Legislative Report. Written Legislative report. 2nd Vice-Chair Harmon asked about the budget. Deputy Commissioner Sana Efird said that the Board will not see the Budget until December 15th. There would not be an opportunity for the board to review it and they will not see the budget until it is released. 1st Vice-Chair Hull said she believes that we made significant progress and kudos to the Governor for that. Deputy Commissioner Sana Efird said that when the Governor released the budget we could do an email to the Board with the changes. 2nd Vice-Chair Harmon thanked the Deputy Commissioner and said that he thought there was a lot of progress made and respects that it is the Governor's budget. The Deputy Commissioner said she will be happy to send it and that the board could contact her or Heidi Teschner with questions.

Agenda Item 10E. Mount Edgecumbe High School. Member Himschoot asked a question about the dates regarding the amount of growth from Fall to Spring.

Agenda Item 10F. Data Management. Brian Laurent, Data Management Supervisor shared the report and answered a question about copies of the reports. Brian Laurent said that board members could contact him with questions on any data reporting.

Agenda Item 10G. Libraries.

Agenda Item 10H. Attorney General.

Agenda Item 11. Commissioner's Report. Commissioner Johnson gave his report, saying that we all recognize that there is still a lot of work to do, that we are not claiming success yet, and that the unity and commitment from Alaskans across the state will positively impact the students in the state. He said that he is looking forward to working with leaders around the state and that he appreciated the board and staff at the department. On Tuesday he visited Central Middle school with the Lt. Governor and they were able to do some coding activities. He thanked Deena

Bishop. He said that the board should look at the Department's Twitter Feed. He talked about resources on the department's website.

Agenda Item 12. Consent Agenda. Member Himschoot moved and Member Hamilton seconded the following motion: I move the State Board of Education & Early Development approve the consent agenda consisting of approval of the minutes of the September 14 & 15, 2017 meeting, the minutes of the October 5, 2017 and November 2, 2017 work sessions, the Alaska's Education Challenge report, and the draft report to the legislature. The motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

Board Comments

1st Vice Chair Hull thanked everyone for their work on the audio conference and the board packet. She is grateful to the Commissioner for his leadership and the department staff. Thank you to everyone for the Alaska Education challenge.

Member Hamilton is grateful for the Commissioner and his strenuous travel schedule. He is very dedicated to his job.

Member Thompson said that she appreciates the department staff and thanked them for all the work that they do.

Member Gallahorn said thank you.

Member Himschoot said Happy Holidays.

Member Michael thanked the staff for all the reports and the board representatives.

Chair Fields thanked everyone and spoke briefly about public comments. He mentioned that we have had substantially less public comment since he started. He believes we are being forthright and transparent. Commissioner Johnson said thank you for the kind comments.

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 am.